

TRIUMPH OF WOMEN LAWYERS

BELVA LOCKWOOD'S FIGHT WON TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS AGO.

Since then Twenty-eight of her sex have been admitted to practice before the highest Federal—Supreme Court of the United States. Of these twenty-eight women three have since died. There are less than a thousand women lawyers practicing in the United States to-day.

The twenty-eight women admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States, with the date of their admission, are as follows:



MRS. M. M. RICKER, WASHINGTON.

have been admitted to practice, the last being Miss Ida M. Moyers of Washington, who was admitted last April.

When it is said that more than 15,000 men have been privileged to appear before that court, the small number of women who have realized their ambition is brought into sharp contrast. Of these twenty-eight women three have since died. There are less than a thousand women lawyers practicing in the United States to-day.

The twenty-eight women admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States, with the date of their admission, are as follows:

- Mrs. Belva A. Lockwood, Washington, March 3, 1879.
- Mrs. Laura DeFonce Gordon, California, February 2, 1885.
- Mrs. Ada M. Bittenbender, Lincoln, Neb., October 15, 1888.
- Mrs. Carrie Burnham Kilgore, Philadelphia, January 8, 1890.
- Mrs. Clara Shortridge Foltz, San Diego, Cal., March 4, 1890.
- Mrs. Lella Robinson Sawtelle, Boston, April 8, 1890.
- Miss Emma M. Gillett, Washington, April 8, 1890.
- Mrs. Kate Kane Ross, Chicago, May 18, 1890.
- Mrs. Marilla M. Ricker, Washington, May 11, 1891.
- Mrs. Myra Bradwell, Chicago, March 28, 1892.
- Mrs. Fannie O'Linn, Chadron, Neb., October 17, 1893.
- Mrs. Kate H. Pier McIntosh, Milwaukee, January 18, 1894.
- Mrs. Ellen Spencer Mussey, Washington, May 28, 1895.
- Miss Alice A. Mink, Lincoln, Neb., January 18, 1897.
- Mrs. Caroline H. Pier Roemer, Milwaukee, January 18, 1897.
- Mrs. J. Ellen Foster, Washington, December 20, 1897.
- Mrs. Catherine Waugh McCulloch, Chicago, February 21, 1898.
- Miss Clara L. Power, Boston, April 2, 1898.
- Mrs. Kate Pier, Milwaukee, February 1, 1899.
- Mrs. Victoria Conkling Whitney, St. Louis, April 9, 1900.
- Miss Florence King, Chicago, April 20, 1900.
- Miss Susan C. O'Neill, Waterbury, Conn., April 25, 1904.
- Mrs. Sarah Herring Sorin, Tucson, Ariz., April 16, 1906.
- Miss Mary L. Trescott, Wilkesbarre, Pa., April 16, 1906.
- Mrs. Ella Knowles Haskell, Butte, Mont., April 23, 1906.
- Miss Mary Philbrook, Newark, N. J., November 8, 1906.
- Miss Ida M. Moyers, District of Columbia, April 18, 1907.

Geographically these women lawyers are widely scattered. Six hail from Washington, Illinois and Wisconsin have four each, Nebraska, three; Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and California, two, and Arizona, Connecticut, Missouri, New Jersey and Montana, one each.

About one-half of them have personally appeared before the Supreme Court in cases. Mrs. Lockwood has appeared more than a thousand times. Mrs. Marilla M. Ricker has probably been in the Supreme Court often than any other woman, with the exception of Mrs. Lockwood.

Here are some rather interesting points about these twenty-eight women. Mrs. McCulloch is the only woman justice of the peace. Mrs. Gordon was the first to make a public speech for woman suffrage and the first to own and edit a daily newspaper.

Mrs. Ricker is said to be the only woman

who ever sat on the bench with the Lord Chief Justice of England. Miss King is the only woman patent attorney. Mrs. Mussey is the only woman dean of a law college.

The first woman to practice law in this country was Margaret Brent. Lord Baltimore, then Governor of Maryland, asked the Legislature that she be appointed executor of her relatives' estate. One of the learned members said that it was better that the estate be lost than a woman appear to make an argument before them. Margaret Brent, however, won her case.

And yet a few years after the civil war, when Mrs. Carrie B. Kilgore applied for admission to the law department of the University of Pennsylvania, she was told by the then dean that "when niggers and women are admitted to the law school" he would resign. Mrs. Kilgore herself related this incident to the writer.

It is largely through the efforts of these twenty-eight women that married women throughout the country have the guardianship of their children equally with the father and enjoy the right to money earned by them; and women in general have been admitted to law colleges, to membership in school boards and to suffrage in many States through the hard work of these twenty-eight representative lawyers.

Belva Lockwood, the first woman to be admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court, is the dean of American women lawyers. In two election campaigns she has been nominated by the Equal Rights party for the Presidency of the United States.

She is in her seventy-seventh year, but her mind is as alert as ever. In fact she is now winning up the greatest work of her life, in completing what is probably the most important law case ever won by a woman, the securing of a \$5,000,000 judgment against the United States Government for 6,000 Cherokee Indians.

She was graduated in the National University Law School, Washington, in May, 1879, after matriculation had been refused to her in Columbia College, now George Washington University, on account of her sex. She was admitted to the bar of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia September 23, 1879, and at once entered into active practice.

Two years later she applied for admission to the United States Court of Claims, and after repeated postponements her application was refused; first, because she was a woman and, secondly, because she was a married woman. One year later she was proposed for admission to the United States Supreme Court, and her application was refused as follows:

"This application is denied until there shall be a more extended public opinion in its favor or some special legislation."

The following year Benjamin F. Butler at her request introduced a bill in the House of Representatives for the admission of women to the United States Supreme Court. That bill was lost in the House. In 1877 William Lawrence of Ohio introduced a bill for her relief, which was lost in committee.

At the second session of this Congress Mrs. Lockwood presented a bill which stands on the statute books of the United States, providing that "any woman of good moral character and otherwise duly qualified shall on presentation be admitted

to the bar of the United States Supreme Court." This bill passed the House by an overwhelming majority and the following year was introduced into the Senate by Senator Sargent of California and passed that body by more than a two-thirds majority February 15, 1879.

The bill was signed by President Hayes, and a few days later, March 3, 1879, Mrs. Lockwood was admitted to the bar of the United States Supreme Court, and March 10, 1879, to the bar of the United States Court of Claims. She has been in active practice since that time.

Mrs. Laura DeFonce Gordon, who was the second woman to be admitted to United States Supreme Court practice, died last April in California at the age of 87. She was possibly the most able representative of the woman suffragists of the West. The wife of a physician, she aided him while he was surgeon on Gen. Banks' staff during the civil war.

She delivered the first speech made publicly for woman suffrage in San Francisco, February 19, 1868. She was the first woman in the United States to edit and publish a daily paper, owning the Stockton (Cal.) Daily Leader, later changed to the Daily Democrat. This she conducted successfully for four years.

She became interested in law and studied it. With Mrs. Clara Shortridge Foltz of San Diego, Cal., she fought for the right of women lawyers to practice in California. These young women, then in their thirties, were opposed by three leading members of the bar, two being former Supreme Court Justices, and won a decisive victory, being admitted to practice in the State Supreme Court in December, 1879.

Mrs. Gordon was instrumental in securing much legislation favorable to women. She was nominated for State Senator in San Joaquin county, but was defeated. For thirty years she devoted her time equally between her law practice and woman suffrage work.

Mrs. Ada M. Bittenbender was born in Asylum, Bradford county, Pa., on August 3, 1848. Her maiden name was Cole.

On August 8, 1875, she married Henry C. Bittenbender, a young lawyer of Bloomsburg, Pa., and a graduate of Princeton College. They removed to Ocochee, Neb., in November, 1878. Mrs. Bittenbender



MRS. E. K. HASKELL, BUTTE.

taught school during the first winter in Nebraska. In 1879 she became editor of the Ocochee Record. She read law with her husband and was admitted in May, 1882, to the Nebraska bar; the first woman admitted to practice in Nebraska.

Like Mrs. Lockwood and Mrs. Gordon, Mrs. Caroline B. Kilgore of Philadelphia, who was the first woman in Pennsylvania to be admitted to practice, found it extremely difficult to overcome the opposition to the admission of women to the bar. Born in Craftsburg, Vt., her parents died when she was a girl.

At 13 her guardian decided that two years education was enough for a girl. At 15 she became a teacher. Three years later she taught Greek and higher mathematics in the public schools at Madison, Wis.

For a few years she was a professor in a medical college. In 1865 she began to read law and six years later applied for admission to the law school of the University of Pennsylvania. She was told by the dean that he would resign before he would let "niggers" and women matriculate.

It was not until ten years later that Mrs. Kilgore was able to enter the law school. Then her troubles began, for no Philadelphia court would admit her to practice. Finally, in 1883, through the efforts of Damon G. Kilgore, her husband, a Philadelphia lawyer, she was admitted to practice in the Orphans' Court. In 1888 she was admitted to practice before the Pennsylvania State Supreme Court.

Through her efforts women were admitted to legal practice in Pennsylvania, into the law school of the University of Pennsylvania and were eligible to appointment on local school boards.

In discussing the fact that since 1879 only twenty-eight women have been admitted to United States Supreme Court practice, Mrs. Kilgore remarked: "Women have been so uniformly successful in the lower courts that their cases have rarely reached the Supreme Court."

Mrs. Clara Shortridge Foltz, the "Portia of the Pacific," was born in Lisbon, Ind., and early moved to California. She was the first woman lawyer admitted on the Pacific Coast and the first woman trustee of the California State normal school. For years she taught school and later entered newspaper work.

She early became identified with the Republican party and stumped the State for years. She was one of the California delegates to the National Bar Association meeting at the World's Fair, Chicago, and organized the Portia Law Club, at that time the only women's law club in the world. She makes a specialty of corporation law.

Not the least interesting of these women is Marilla M. Ricker. Admitted to the bar in Washington in May, 1882, she has made a specialty of criminal cases. She is a singularly striking looking woman, tall, mannish, commanding, with iron gray hair. Withal, she is motherly, gentle, sympathetic, kind.

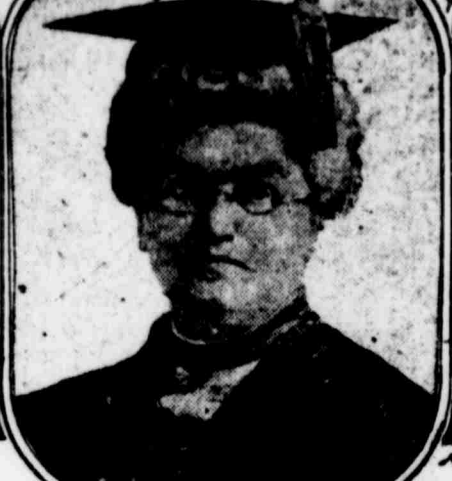
It is related of her that after the lawyer opposing her had made a two hour speech she addressed the court in these words: "Your Honor and gentlemen of the jury, I follow the example of the learned counsel on the other side and submit the case without argument."

The jury laughed while the court, suppressing a smile, ordered a nolle pro, in her favor.

She sits at meat with publicans and sinners, and gamblers and thieves, big and little, call her Marilla, and bootblacks follow her and cry, "Let me carry your catch, Marilla; cost you nothing."

Years ago Mrs. Ricker went to England with a letter of introduction from Chief Justice Chase to the Chief Justice of England. She was the first woman who ever sat with an English Chief Justice on the bench.

A woman of wealth, Mrs. Ricker's life has been devoted to the defense of poor women. Most of her clients have been women, and much of her work has been to collect debts due working women.



MRS. E. S. MUSSEY, WASHINGTON.

She has argued for equal rights for half a century. She was an abolitionist with John Brown and Wendell Phillips and stood side by side with Frederick Douglass when he do so was to invite insult.

She has raised her voice in behalf of children in mills, mines and factories. She has been a personal friend of every President since Lincoln, and every man of prominence in Washington in the last half century has been her friend.

Mrs. Myra Bradwell, who until her death was founder and editor of the Legal News

of Chicago, was a native of Manchester, Vt. She was the first woman in the United States who applied for admission to the bar, her application being denied because she was a married woman. She practiced but little after starting the News, and her husband, Judge James B. Bradwell, retired from the bench to assist her.

Mrs. Frances Maria Brainerd O'Linn, who is practicing law in Chadron, Neb., was admitted to United States Supreme Court practice in 1892 on motion of William Jennings Bryan.

The most remarkable family of women lawyers in the United States is that of Mrs. Kate Pier and her three daughters. Mrs. Pier is the widow of Col. C. K. Pier, the first white boy born in Wisconsin and a business man of Milwaukee, where his widow and daughters now live.

Mrs. Pier, as executrix of her mother's estate, became so interested in the legal aspects of the business of real estate that she determined to take up law. With her eldest daughter, Kate Hamilton Pier, she entered the law department of the University of Wisconsin, and mother and daughter completed in one year a course which occupies two for the majority of matriculates.

Both Mrs. Pier and her daughter were admitted to practice in 1887. Miss Pier was admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court in 1894 upon the motion of Senator William F. Vilas, and her mother and sisters were admitted later on her motion.

Miss Kate Pier is now the wife of James A. McIntosh of the firm of McIntosh Bros., railroad contractors. She no longer practices law.

Mrs. Caroline Hamilton Pier Roemer is the wife of John H. Roemer, a Milwaukee attorney, and has made a specialty of admiralty and marine law.

Mrs. Harriet Hamilton Pier Simonds, the wife of Charles G. Simonds, an electrical engineer with the General Electric Company of Schenectady, is the youngest of the sisters. She has specialized in real estate law. In addition, she has had much experience in and about the pine forests of northern Wisconsin and has had actual personal charge and management of large tracts of timber land.

Mrs. Ellen Spencer Mussey is the only woman dean of a college of law in this country. She is dean of the Washington College of Law, intended primarily for women.

Mrs. Mussey received her legal education in her husband's office and was admitted to the bar in 1887. She is the daughter of Platt R. Spencer, the author of Spencerian writing.



MRS. FANNIE O'LINN, CHADRON.

Mrs. Catherine Waugh McCulloch of Evanston, Ill., has been practicing law for twenty years. Last spring Evanston's Justice of the Peace retired and Mrs. McCulloch's friends urged her to enter the race. She won overwhelmingly over her opponent, by business, a plumber.

Mrs. Victoria Conkling Whitney is the only woman who can practice before the Court of Appeals in Missouri. In 1900 she removed to New York and was admitted to practice before the Supreme Court on motion of former Supreme Court Justice Roger A. Pryor.

Miss Florence King is the only woman

who spent washing dishes and in other menial work.

Having been graduated she set forth for Chicago with \$6 and her diploma and obtained a place as a stenographer with a salary of \$6. She did work for patent attorneys, became interested in patent law, studied law and engineering and finally opened an office herself.

Her most famous victory was won several years ago, when she literally put out of business a \$5,000,000 corporation. "A man lawyer in speaking of the case said: 'That was the greatest victory ever won in the United States courts by the unaided efforts of a woman.'"

Miss Susan C. O'Neill is a daughter of John O'Neill of Waterbury, Conn., with her father and her brother, John J. O'Neill, who forms the law partnership of O'Neill, O'Neill & O'Neill.

Mrs. Sarah Herring Sorin, who is the junior member of the law firm of Herring, Sorin & Ellinwood of Tucson and Bisbee, Ariz., studied law in the office of her father, William Herring, at Tombstone. Later she was graduated in 1894 from the law school of the University of the City of New York. Mrs. Sorin is a New York girl, studied in Grammar School 83 and attended the Normal College.

Miss Mary L. Trescott was a school teacher in the Wilkesbarre, Pa., public schools when she decided to enter law.

Mrs. Ella Knowles Haskell is the only woman lawyer in Montana, with offices in Butte. Two other women were admitted to practice, but both gave it up after marriage. In addition to her law practice she is engaged in mining operations.

Miss Mary Philbrook is the only woman lawyer in New Jersey who is entitled to practice before the United States Supreme Court. She was a stenographer in a law firm when she began to study law. It was through her efforts that New Jersey women were admitted to practice.

The late Mrs. Lella J. Robinson Sawtelle for years practiced law in Boston, being the first Massachusetts woman to practice before the United States Supreme Court and being admitted on the motion of the late Senator George F. Hoar.

Miss Clara L. Power, the only Massachusetts woman now entitled to practice before the highest court, is an assistant in the Register of Probate's office in the court house, Boston.

Mrs. Alice A. Mink of Lincoln, Neb., was the second woman admitted to the United States Court of Claims and to the Circuit Court in Nebraska.

Miss Emma M. Gillett is junior member of the firm of Newton & Gillett of Washington and makes a specialty of real property law.

Mrs. Kate Kane Rossi of Chicago was admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court on motion of the late Robert G. Ingersoll.

Miss Ida M. Moyers, the last woman to be admitted to United States Supreme Court practice, began her legal education through the medium of a correspondence school, later graduating from the Washington School of Law. She is the senior partner of the law firm of Moyers & Connel, the latter member being her brother-in-law.

At that time she determined to leave school after a year's hard work and attend the law in a small college at Mount Morris, Ill. Three hours a day

she spent washing dishes and in other menial work.

Having been graduated she set forth for Chicago with \$6 and her diploma and obtained a place as a stenographer with a salary of \$6. She did work for patent attorneys, became interested in patent law, studied law and engineering and finally opened an office herself.

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THE ONLY STORY BOOK HEROINE.

The Conversion of the One Actual Chafing-Dish-Pink-Kimono Girl Student.

Fifteen years ago the college girl in books was the girl who wore spectacles, had her hair in ringlets, and wore a pink kimono and a chafing-dish. Nowadays the college girl of fiction poses round in a pink teagown and spends all her spare time making fudge; never studies but always comes out all right.

That's the way she is in stories, but you'll never find her in real life. Though I've known hundreds of college girls, I never met but one of that kind, and she didn't last at that.

For three years she was the type. She had the most fetching kimono and brewed tea at all hours and fudge in between. She avoided all study by taking only the courses notorious as snags. What's more, she passed her examinations.

The chafing-dish pink tea type in real life usually flunks and consequently has to change her state of mind or leave college. But Bert always passed with flying colors, so we knew she was the true heroine of college fiction. At least she was heroine for three years and then was converted.

As for the conversion, Kate—she was my roommate—lays it to the power of the press.

I call it the power of Kate, while Bertha herself puts the blame for it all on the psychology class. We three are the only ones who know the facts of the case and as we disagree you can take your choice.

For more than two years Bert Bradley had been a class below us and so we took it upon ourselves every once in a while to reason with her on the error of her ways. Well, she just doesn't exist. Nowadays the college girl of fiction poses round in a pink teagown and spends all her spare time making fudge; never studies but always comes out all right.

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I'm cutting and you needn't look at me in that tone of voice. I haven't much in me to put up with that kind of insult by taking it to that class."

Kate straightened herself to administer the rod of correction. "Bert Bradley, you're too good a mind to waste it the way you do."

"I know it," said the culprit, calmly. "If I hadn't so many brains I would have been a class below you. It's only my brains that have prevented my intellectual growth. I'm too thundering bright."

"No use, missionary," grinned the frivolous junior. "I like my own easy life too well. Clinch, courses for me every time. Now quit scolding me and come downtown and get something to eat. You know you didn't like that camel meat they fed us this morning any better than I did."

"What's she reading so industriously?" Bert asked me.

"William James. References for advanced psychology," I answered.

As soon as she heard the word psychology Bert threw another scolding cushion at my studious roommate. "And she prefers that stuff to my society! I call that insulting," she said.

Kate woke to defend her pet subject. "But this advanced psych, isn't at all like what you're doing. It's perfectly fascinating, all about 'obsessions and dreams and things.'"

"Fascinating," repeated the irresponsible junior, scornfully. Then as Kate showed signs of returning to her beloved James, she would admit her to practice. "Finally, in 1883, through the efforts of Damon G. Kilgore, her husband, a Philadelphia lawyer, she was admitted to practice in the Orphans' Court. In 1888 she was admitted to practice before the Pennsylvania State Supreme Court."

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